



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring    Be Honest    Be Respectful    Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has now been five weeks since young people returned to full time learning in school and it is a pleasure to be working with them in school. They have adapted well to the new routines in place and the purpose of this letter, as well as updating you on learning and teaching matters, is to support your discussions with your child(ren) when they may question why we continue with these routines or indeed why they are necessary.

## **S4 – S6 Reporting to Parents and Carers**

As intimated last week reports will be posted home by the end of the week beginning 5 October 2020 for all young people in S4 – 6 undertaking SQA National Qualifications. Assessments are underway for all young people undertaking these courses as teachers gather evidence to ensure that they are at the right level. The reports when they come will contain a range of information. For ease I have repeated this below:

- a **Target Grade**,
- a **Working Grade**,
- Information about their **effort, behaviour, and homework**
- Comments about their **progress and advice on next steps**

The **Target Grade** is aspirational. It is agreed upon through dialogue between the class teacher and the young person and represents the grade that the member of staff feels that the young person could achieve if they work to the very best of their potential. It will also be based on prior attainment in the same or similar subject areas. The Target Grade is **not** an estimate grade or a predicted grade.

The **Working Grade** is a judgement based on the level and quality of work produced by the young person at this point in the course. This judgement may also be influenced by effort and behaviour and standard of homework.

We await further information from the SQA on the process for assessment and certification for the 2021 cohort. However, we are emphasising to our young people that it is essential to keep up to date with classwork and any home learning tasks, including preparation for assessments throughout the year.

Teachers will use a range of evidence to make judgements about a young person's progress. This will include class assessments and tests based on exam type questions and classwork and homework. They are beginning the process of gathering this evidence now. There will be a particular focus on assessments in January 2021. Please note that there will be no study leave. At this time, it is crucial that we maximise learning time and assessments will take place within class time. Pupils are being assessed, on an ongoing basis, throughout the session in each subject. The January assessment is **only one part** of the assessment evidence gathered by teachers.

I detailed in last week's HT update the range of resources there are available to support young people's learning.

You will receive communications if there are concerns about your child(ren)'s work – late homework, non-completion of homework, poor work ethic or non-completion of work in class. But if you have concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House.

### **Google Classroom**

All young people should now be signed up to the Google Classrooms in each of their subjects. Parents/carers should have been invited as Google Guardians and only need to respond to the email they have been sent in order to get up-to-date information about the tasks and assignments that their children have been set. This will be essential if they should be forced to self-isolate.

### **Face Coverings**

Thank you for supporting your child(ren) to come to school prepared with a face covering. On average each day between 10 and 30 young people are arriving without a face covering because they have forgotten or left it at home or lost it on the way to school. We have a limited supply to give out. If we think there might be an underlying problem, or a young person arrives on several occasions without one we will contact home to see if we can help. Your help and support with this by providing your child(ren) with a face covering for each day as well as a few spares is much appreciated. Almost all our young people are well organised, wearing their face coverings willingly and by doing so keeping our whole school community and their families safe and well.

### **Six from Two**

The change to the rules on social gatherings impacts on all of us. Some young people find it hard to understand why they can be in larger groups in school and yet outside of school cannot gather in groups of more than six from two households. The following explanation may help if you are having similar discussions at home.

We cannot eliminate the risk of catching or passing on Covid-19 completely except by having no interaction with others. But we can limit the opportunities it has to pass from person to person. We want to keep our schools and workplaces open, so we must reduce our social meetings with others to reduce overall the opportunities for the virus to be passed from individual to individual. In addition in our schools and workplaces we put extra measures in place to further reduce the risk: we wash/sanitise our hands as often as we can; we reduce in a day the number of people we come into contact with; when we can't avoid lots of people coming together we wear face coverings; finally, we increase the amount of cleaning of hard surfaces such as desks and multiple touch points like doors and bannisters.

So, it's not about *"If it's safe to be with others in school then it's just as safe outside of school!"* it is about reducing overall the opportunities the virus has to spread from person to person. If we want schools open and workplaces open, we have to make sacrifices elsewhere.

### **Lunch Time**

I have been approached by members of the local community concerned about several of our pupils who have not been observing social distancing or wearing a face covering whilst in the local shops at lunchtime. It is the responsibility of the local shop keepers to enforce this and trading standards officers can visit premises to ensure it is happening. If young people are old enough and considered responsible enough to go off school grounds to buy their lunch in the local community, they are old enough to understand and respect that there are different rules in place which include the wearing of a face covering and maintaining 2m

distance from others – including fellow pupils. This was explained in the induction presentations which were delivered in the first week of term. It is also something that I am sure they would not be concerned about doing in your company outside of the school day. I would appreciate you reinforcing this message at home.

### **Hand Washing and Sanitising**

Hand washing and sanitising is one of the best ways young people can keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Soap and water are best – and we have provided soap for all teaching areas that have sinks and have asked teachers to actively encourage young people to wash their hands when in these areas. When that is not possible, we ask that young people use the sanitising gel – thoroughly. They can if they wish bring in their own sanitising gel, which should be a minimum of 70% alcohol.

It would be helpful and supportive of our local community if these messages about face coverings, social distancing in local shops and meeting in groups of no more than six from two households could be reinforced at home and I thank you in advance for your support with this. Young people are citizens like all of us and have rights as well as responsibilities. It is important that none of us become complacent and keep up with the good routines that have been established in school. If anyone has any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school to discuss further.

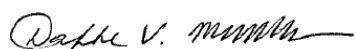
### **Parent Council**

If you wish to become part of the parent council or the 100 Club Monthly Draw please email the school office. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 29 September, 7.15pm – 8.15pm. The new office bearers will be confirmed at this meeting.

### **Holiday Weekend - Friday 25 September to Monday 28 September inclusive**

School finishes at 2.55 on Thursday 24 September and reopens on Tuesday 29 September 2020. I hope you and your family have a restful break.

Yours sincerely



Daphne McWilliam  
Head Teacher